

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system for performing communication control on information indicating whether or not a third party is present over a network, comprising:

5 a caller communication terminal equipment having presence inquiring means for making an inquiry about a presence state of a communicating party, presence information receiving means for receiving presence information and presence information display means for displaying said received presence information; and

10 a receiver communication terminal equipment having presence determining means for determining said presence state, presence information generating means for generating said presence information and presence information sending means for sending said presence information upon reception of said inquiry.

2. The communication system according to claim 1, wherein with respect to said inquiry, said caller communication terminal equipment acknowledges said communicating party's being present when receiving a response to said inquiry from said receiver communication terminal equipment and acknowledges said communicating party's being not present when receiving no response to said inquiry.

09746495-122100

3. The communication system according to claim 1,
further comprising message control means for storing
messages of plural patterns and selecting a message to be
sent to said communicating party and sending said selected
5 message when said communicating party is not present.

4. The communication system according to claim 1,
further comprising a management server including schedule
information managing means for managing schedule
10 information and performing transmission and reception of
said schedule information.

5. The communication system according to claim 4,
wherein said management server regularly inquires about a
presence state or a line-busy state of said communicating
15 party, updates management information and sends updated
contents to a registered terminal.

6. The communication system according to claim 4,
20 wherein said schedule information managing means sends
schedule information of a main receiver to a sub receiver
in multiline reception mode.

7. The communication system according to claim 4,
25 wherein said schedule information managing means sends
schedule information of a main receiver to a responder sub
receiver in pickup response mode.

09746495-122100

8. The communication system according to claim 4,
wherein said schedule information managing means determines
whether or not said communicating party is an outsider and
5 sends schedule information for outsiders when said
communicating party is an outsider.

9. The communication system according to claim 1,
further comprising automatic presence-notification means
10 for, when an absence state has changed to a presence state,
automatically notifying that status change to a caller who
has called during said absence state.

10. The communication system according to claim 1,
15 wherein said receiver communication terminal equipment
detects a line-busy state of said communicating party.

11. The communication system according to claim 10,
wherein said caller communication terminal equipment
20 displays information on said line-busy state of said
communicating party.

12. The communication system according to claim 1,
further comprising a protocol converting unit for
25 connecting said network to an external network and sending
presence information and line-busy information in response
to a call made over said external network.

13. A communication terminal equipment for performing communication control on information indicating whether or not any third party is present over a network, comprising:

presence inquiring means for making an inquiry about a presence state of a communicating party;

presence information receiving means for receiving presence information;

presence information display means for displaying said received presence information;

presence determining means for determining said presence state;

presence information generating means for generating said presence information; and

presence information sending means for sending said presence information upon reception of said inquiry.